TOLD IN NEW CHILLING PICTO-FICTION

WEIRD

JUNE 1974

75¢

THE SHAPE OF EVIL IN—

— THE STRANGE AND INCREDIBLE

SUPERNATURAL

AND

THE FANGED MONSTER

LUKE

KING KONG

Item 639K.....King Kong.....$1.00
Item 639B. Beast from 20,000 fathoms 1.00
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No. 247 50c

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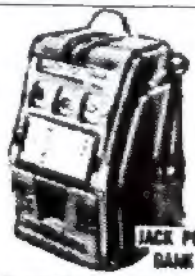
Looks like real chewing gum but tastes like ONIONS! It's too funny! 5 slices to a pack
No 281 20c

JACK POT BANK



Dime operated "one armed Bandit" works like those in Las Vegas. Deposit dime, pull handle, and reels spin like the real thing. Dimes are removable. Should not be used for gambling.
No. 2060 ...$1.98

SECRET BOOK SAFE

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Only You Can Open

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No. 700 $1.69

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ONLY $1.00

"Obeys Your Commands"
OVER 7 FEET TALL

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No. 70 $1.25

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A126 1.25

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No. F200 $1.00

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For COD orders please send 50c good will deposit. Pay postman the balance on delivery plus COD and handling charges.

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WEIRD

CONTENTS

JUNE 1974 VOL. 8 NO. 3

THE FANGED MONSTER 4

A gruesome beast from the pit of hell runs amuck in a busy city leaving a bloody trail of victims until it sought shelter in the body of an unwilling host.

THE SUPERNATURAL 11

The bone-chilling tale that emerges from the unknown into a shattering experience with things long dead.

SHOCK 22

A maintenance man is caught in the dilemma of a 'hospitalized wife' and a 'theft,' only to learn that there are things that money can't buy.

HE ROSE FROM THE GRAVE 28

The horror of a man who fed a beggar and was doomed by the terrifying thing that came back from the grave.

THE MUMMY 36

The strange and evil power of a mummy and an incredible voyage on the ill-fated Titanic.

SATAN'S DEMON 39

A corpse rises from its rotting coffin and the evil forces of Satan rip into the peaceful life of a 58-year-old man.

THE BEAST 45

A gambler searches for the secret-of-the-numbers and becomes trapped by a dying woman's curse of hate.

CARL BURGOS, Editor **IRVING FASS**, Art Director
EZRA JACKSON, Art Editor

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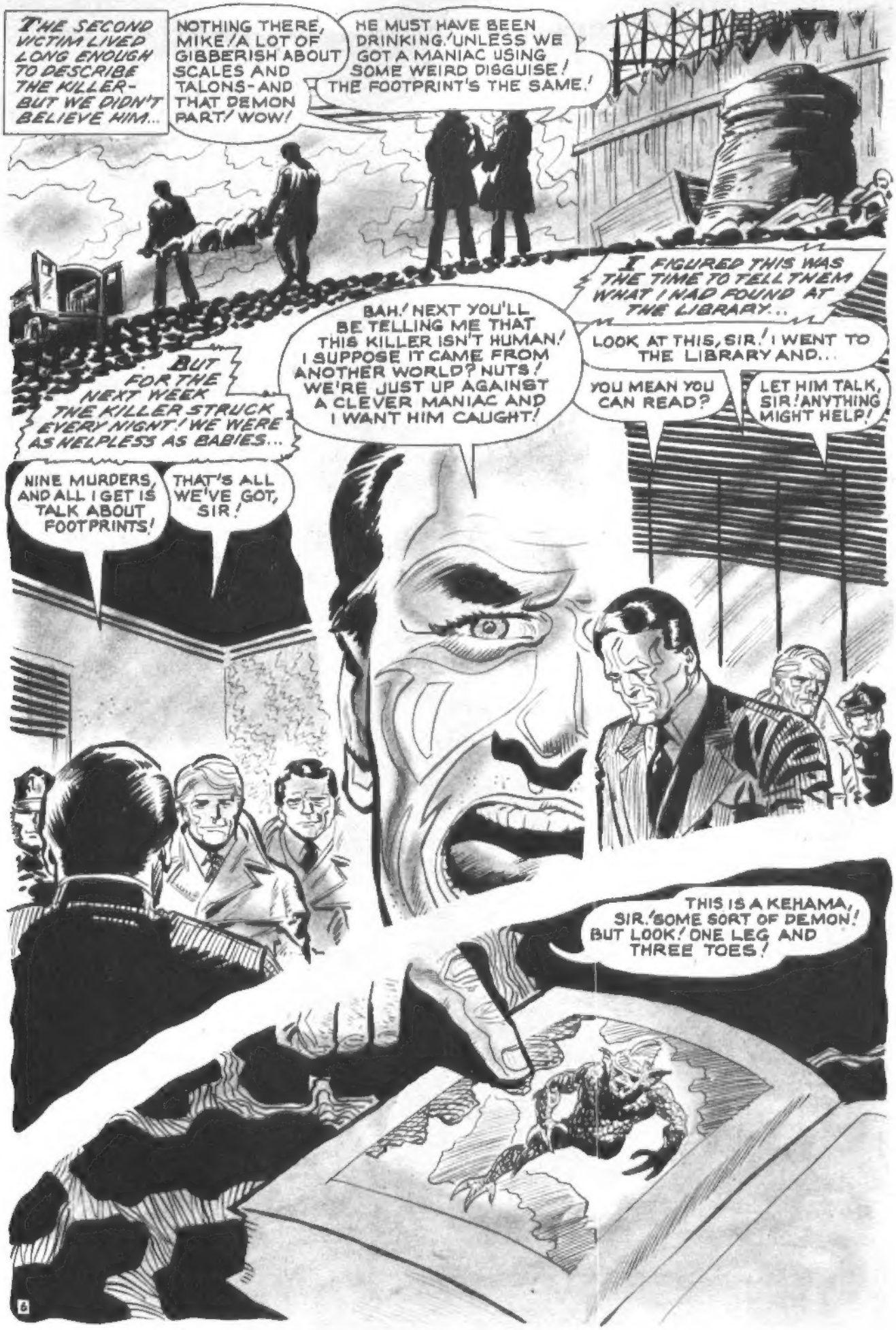
THE FANGED MONSTER
MY NAME IS BILL WHITE! I'M A DETECTIVE, FIRST CLASS, ASSIGNED TO HOMICIDE! MAYBE YOU WONT BELIEVE THE STORY I'M GOING TO TELL YOU, BUT IT'S TRUE! EVERY HORRIBLE WORD OF IT! FINDING A HUMAN KILLER IS BAD ENOUGH, BUT THIS TIME WE WERE UP AGAINST A VILE AND FILTHY THING FROM THE PIT! IT STARTED ONE DANK, RAINY NIGHT IN NOVEMBER...
MIKE TODD AND I ANSWERED AN EMERGENCY CALL...
THAT CALL SAID 15TH AND RUCKLE! WE'RE ALMOST THERE!
YEAH! ANOTHER POOR CHIPPY KILLED! PROBABLY A BRAWL WITH HER BOY FRIEND!
A CARD IN HER PURSE SAID SHE WAS MABEL TERHUNE! SHE MIGHT HAVE BEEN PRETTY-ONCE...
UGH! PRETTY NASTY, HUH!
YEAH! LOOKS LIKE SOME ANIMAL HAS BEEN AFTER HER THROAT!
BILL! COME HERE, QUICK!

MIKE HAD FOUND SOMETHING...
WHAT IS IT? YOU FIND THE WEAPON?
NO, BUT LOOK AT THIS! WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT?
I FELT A CHILL RUN THROUGH ME! IT WAS THE PRINT OF A LARGE THREE-TOED FOOT...
NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE IT BEFORE! GIVES ME THE CREEPS!
AND IT'S BLOODY! SO THERE'S GOT TO BE A CONNECTION!
OWRRRR
MAYBE! OR MAYBE THE KILLER HAS ONLY GOT ONE LEG AND THREE TOES! BEATS ME!
WE'RE DEALING WITH SOME NUT, MIKE! HE RIGGED THIS SCREWY PRINT TO CONFUSE US!
YIIIIIIIII-
IT BEAT ALL OF US! AND THE NEXT NIGHT...
HUH! WHO'S THERE? WHAT ARE YOU HIDING BACK THERE FOR?


THE SECOND VICTIM LIVED LONG ENOUGH TO DESCRIBE THE KILLER- BUT WE DIDN'T BELIEVE HIM...
NOTHING THERE, MIKE! A LOT OF GIBBERISH ABOUT SCALES AND TALONS- AND THAT DEMON PART! WOW!
HE MUST HAVE BEEN DRINKING! UNLESS WE GOT A MANIAC USING SOME WEIRD DISGUISE! THE FOOTPRINT'S THE SAME!
I FIGURED THIS WAS THE TIME TO TELL THEM WHAT I HAD FOUND AT THE LIBRARY...
BAH! NEXT YOU'LL BE TELLING ME THAT THIS KILLER ISN'T HUMAN! I SUPPOSE IT CAME FROM ANOTHER WORLD? NUTS! WE'RE JUST UP AGAINST A CLEVER MANIAC AND I WANT HIM CAUGHT!
LOOK AT THIS, SIR! I WENT TO THE LIBRARY AND...
YOU MEAN YOU CAN READ?
LET HIM TALK, SIR! ANYTHING MIGHT HELP!
BUT FOR THE NEXT WEEK THE KILLER STRUCK EVERY NIGHT! WE WERE AS HELPLESS AS BABIES...
NINE MURDERS, AND ALL I GET IS TALK ABOUT FOOTPRINTS!
THAT'S ALL WE'VE GOT, SIR!
THIS IS A KEHAMA, SIR! SOME SORT OF DEMON! BUT LOOK! ONE LEG AND THREE TOES!

I FELT LIKE A REFUGEE FROM THE LAUGHING ACADEMY, BUT I WAS IN IT NOW...
THESE KEHAMAS HAVE BEEN SEEN IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD IN THE LAST THOUSAND YEARS! THEY EAT HUMANS! THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO COME FROM THE CENTER OF THE EARTH! CRAZY, I KNOW, BUT THE DESCRIPTION FITS!
YOU MEAN THAT THIS-THIS KEHAMA COULD BE ANY ONE OF US?
Y-YES!
GREAT SCOTT!
ANOTHER THING, SIR! A KEHAMA CAN TAKE HUMAN FORM! UNTIL IT EATS, THEN IT MUST RESUME ITS OWN FORM! AND IT HAS TO EAT EVERY DAY!
I WAS WORKING WITH ETHEL VANCE, A NICE GIRL WHOM I DATED A COUPLE OF TIMES...
THE LIFE OF A POLICE-WOMAN IS NOT A HAPPY ONE! WHAT DO I DO, BILL?
JUST WALK! I'LL FOLLOW YOU IN THE SHADOWS! I'LL COVER YOU EVERY MINUTE!
THAT NIGHT I TRIED A PLAN OF MY OWN...
THIS IS A NASTY JOB! WE'RE GOING TO USE YOU AS BAIT FOR THIS KILLER!
UGH! WHY DIDN'T I GET MARRIED WHEN I COULD!
WHEN DO WE START?

AN HOUR PASSED...
MAYBE THE KEHAMA ISN'T HUNGRY TONIGHT! IF IT IS A KEHAMA!
TOO LATE I HEARD THE SOUND BEHIND ME...
I STEPPED INTO A BLACK DOOR TO NOTHING...
ARGRR
ARRR RRR
HUH! AFTER ME!
WHEN I SWAM BACK TO LIFE, THE FIRST THING I SAW MADE ME RETCH...
OH-I-I'M ALIVE! IT D-DIDN'T KILL ME! IT PUT ME OUT OF THE WAY AND MURDERED ETHEL!
I WAS SICK WITH RAGE AND FRUSTRATION! I'D BOTCHED IT, GOTTEN A NICE GIRL KILLED! THEN I SAW THE PRINTS...
FUNNY! FIRST TIME THE PRINTS HAVE BEEN SO CLEAR! THEY USUALLY VANISH AFTER A FEW YARDS!

THE PRINTS ARE PLAINER THAN EVER! ALMOST AS IF IT WANTS ME TO FIND IT...
THEN MY STOMACH WENT COLD! THOSE PRINTS LED ME HOME... TO MY APARTMENT HOUSE...
I THINK I KNEW THEN! MY SKIN CRAWLED! AND THE BLOODY PRINTS LED UP THE STAIRS...
THIS IS CRAZY! W-WHY WOULD THAT THING GO TO MY PLACE, UNLESS IT...
IF THEY STOP ON THE THIRD FLOOR...
THEY DID...
MY APARTMENT! IT'S IN THERE NOW- WAITING FOR ME!
I SHOULD HAVE GONE FOR HELP! BUT THERE WAS ETHEL STILL LYING BACK THERE IN HER BLOOD...
I CAN HEAR IT BREATHING! W-WAITING! AS THOUGH IT DARED ME TO COME IN!

SCARED? I WAS SHAKING, BUT I WENT CRASHING IN JUST THE SAME...
HUH? N-NOTHING-NOBODY!
THEN I HEARD THE OBSCENE LAUGHTER...
Y-YOU! THE KEHAMA! YOU FILTHY MURDERING BRUTE!
SUDDENLY I FELT A STRANGE SENSATION! THE CREATURE WAS TALKING TO ME -WITHOUT WORDS...
YOU KNOW TOO MUCH! YOU MUST DIE! I WOULD HAVE KILLED YOU BACK THERE, BUT FOR ONE REASON!
I-MY-BRAIN-FROZEN! I CAN'T SHOOT!
I NEED YOUR BODY! I'LL BE SAFE THEN! THEY'LL NEVER SUSPECT ME IN YOUR BODY!
I HEARD MY OWN SCREAMS GROWING FAINTER AS IT POUNCED...
ARRRR
NO! YIII!
...AND THAT'S THE STORY! I REMEMBER, YOU SEE, AND I WANTED TO GET IT DOWN! BUT NOW I'VE GOT BUSINESS - ON A LONELY STREET! BECAUSE NOW - I'M THE KEHAMA!
THE END

THE SUPERNATURAL
FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL, PEOPLE HAVE THRILLED TO THE SUPERNATURAL-- TO TALES OF STRANGE SPECTERS WHO HAVE HAUNTED COUNTLESS MIDNIGHTS! BUT HERE'S SOMETHING NEW--SOMETHING DIFFERENT! IT'S THE STORY OF... THE HOLLAND HAUNT!

IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE HAND OF FATE, THAT LETTER WHICH CAUGHT UP WITH PETER VAN NOSTRAND IN LONDON...
IT'S FROM MY UNCLE HENDRIK IN NEW YORK, BRIAN... GOOD GRIEF IT'S POSTMARK OVER SIX MONTHS AGO!
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR NEVER STAYING PUT IN ONE PLACE PETE!
HMMM... MAYBE I'LL START SETTLING DOWN NOW! MY UNCLE'S GETTING OLD AND WANTS ME TO COME HOME!! I'LL WRITE HIM THAT I'M ON MY WAY!
BACK HOME... PETE COULDN'T EXPLAIN THE STRANGE PREMONITION OF IMPENDING DISASTER WHICH HAUNTED HIM...
I CAN'T SHAKE OFF THE FEELING THAT SOMETHING TERRIBLE'S HAPPENED... IT'LL BE A RELIEF TO SEE UNCLE AT THE PIER!
PETER DIDN'T REALIZE THAT HIS PREMONITION WAS COMING TRUE...
BUT THERE WAS NO UNCLE TO MEET HIM...
THAT'S HIM... I RECOGNIZE HIM FROM HIS PICTURE! YOU HEAD FOR THE HOUSE, ANNA... I'LL TAKE CARE OF COUSIN PETER!
GUESS MY UNCLE'S TOO OLD TO MEET SHIPS! I'D BETTER TAKE A TAXI TO HIS PLACE!
EXIT
NO THERE WAS NOTHING TO WARN HIM NOW... NOTHING BUT A STRANGE LITTLE MAN WHO APPEARED MIRACULOUSLY... IN NICK OF TIME!
WHAT TH~!

WHEW! IF YOU HADN'T PULLED ME OUT OF THE WAY, I'D.. HEY! WHERE'D THAT LITTLE GUY GO? HE WAS JUST HERE A SECOND AGO!
WELL NO USE WORRYING ABOUT HIM... NOW FOR A CAB.. NOT THAT THERE'S MUCH CHANCE OF GETTING ONE WITH THAT CROWD WAITING!
CAB
JUST THEN...
WELL I'LL BE...! CABBIE, IF IT WASN'T CRAZY, I'D SAY THAT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAVED MY LIFE A FEW MINUTES AGO... BUT FORGET IT! JUST TAKE ME TO 210 BANK STREET!
BUT THE DRIVER SCARCELY SEEMED TO LISTEN! WITH A ROAR, THE CAR WAS OFF, IGNORING SIGNALS, MAGICALLY AVOIDING COLLISIONS...
STOP DRIVER! ARE YOU NUTS?
BUT STILL THE STRANGE, HURTLING RACE CONTINUE.. ONLY TO PAUSE WHEN...
STOP I TELL YOU.. YOU'RE HEADED IN THE WRONG DIRECTION!
BUT.. BUT WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT ME HERE... TO A GRAVEYARD?
13

NO ANSWER! NOTHING BUT THE PALLID BEAM OF THE SPOTLIGHT..ON A TOMBSTONE!
HENDRIK ONNOSTRANC
BORN MARCH 5 1894
IT'S UNCLE HENDRIK... DEAD! BUT HOW..
THEN... WITH A LURCH, THE STRANGE TAXI SWINGS INTO MOTION, HEADING BACK.. AT BLINDING SPEED!
DID THE STRANGE LITTLE CABBIE HEAR FOR HE GAVE NO ANSWER...AND AS IF BY SOME EERIE MAGIC, THEY REACHED THEIR DESTINATION!
WAIT! WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT MY UNCLE? WHY DID YOU BRING ME HERE?
UNCLE HENDRIK'S HOUSE! BUT SECOND AGO, WE WERE BACK THERE...IN THE CEMETERY!
AND FROM WITHIN THE HOUSE...
THERE HE GOES...AND THE TAXI'S FADING AWAY DISAPPEARING! IT'S INCREDIBLE!
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO.. HE'S HERE! OH, IF YOU'D ONLY GOTTEN RID OF HIM BACK AT THE PIER, ARNOLD!
IT WAS TOUGH LUCK, BUT IT'LL BE EASIER HERE!... LISTEN! WE'LL WELCOME HIM AND TELL HIM EVERYTHING ABOUT THE WILL... DON'T WORRY... HE'LL BE DEAD BEFORE THE NIGHT'S OVER!

YOU WISHED TO SEE ..GREAT SCOTT! YOU'RE PETER.. PETER VAN NOSTRAND!
THAT'S RIGHT! WHO ARE YOU?
I'M YOUR COUSIN ARNOLD.. AND THAT'S ANNA MY WIFE! THIS IS A SURPRISE!
PETER! I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT.. NOBODY'S HEARD FROM YOU FOR YEARS!
BUT I WROTE UNCLE HENDRIK I WAS COMING! OF COURSE, I DIDN'T KNOW HE HAD DIED THEN ... BUT MY LETTER MUST'VE ARRIVED!
I'M AFRAID IT DIDN'T AND WE WOULD'VE KNOWN, SINCE WE WERE LOOKING AFTER THE OLD MAN WHEN THE END CAME! WE STAYED ON HERE, ASSUMING THIS WAS OUR HOUSE ...UNTIL NOW!
I DON'T GET IT! WHOSE HOUSE IS IT, THEN?
OF COURSE .. YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE WILL! UNCLE HENDRIK LEFT EVERYTHING TO YOU!
HMMM... THAT IS NEWS!
FOR YEARS THE LAWYERS SEARCHED EVERYWHERE FOR YOU, AND ASSUMED YOU WERE DEAD! MATTER OF FACT, IN TWO MONTHS YOU'D BEEN DECLARED LEGALLY DEAD AND THE PROPERTY WOULD'VE GONE TO THE NEXT IN LINE ...ME!
SO YOU OWN A HOUSE NOW.. COUSIN! WE'LL GO SEE THE LAWYERS IN THE MORNING AND ARRANGE FOR IT!
SORT OF TOUGH FOR YOU .. ME SHOWING UP, HUH? MAYBE I SHOULD'VE STAYED MISSING!

NOTHING OF THE SORT! IT'S WONDERFUL TO HAVE YOU TURN UP LIKE THIS!
AND YOU'RE GOING TO ENJOY THIS OLD DUTCH HOUSE!
PETER BEGAN TO TELL HIS STORY... LITTLE KNOWING THE STRANGE SPECTER HIS WORDS WERE SUMMONING...
ARNOLD... THE WINDOW!
CONFOUND IT, I COULD'VE SWORN THAT WINDOW WAS CLOSE!
AS THEY PROCEEDED... UNAWARE OF THEIR WEIRD VISITOR...
YOU WERE SAYING, PETE?
OH, YES! WELL OF COURSE NOBODY BELIEVES IN GHOSTS, BUT...
WHA— UNCLE HENDRIK PICTURE... IT MUST HAVE COME LOOSE!
PAK!
WHEN A DEAD MAN'S PICTURE FALLS... IT WAS ENOUGH TO DRIVE FROM MIND THE STORY PETE HAD PLANNED TO TELL...
SORRY FOR THIS RECEPTION! UNCLE HENDRIK ALWAYS SAID THIS HOUSE WAS HAUNTED... AND MAYBE IT IS! HA-HA! WELL... MIGHT AS WELL SHOW YOU TO YOUR ROOM!
HAVE A NICE REST, PETER... A NICE, LONG REST!
I'M SURE I WILL GOOD NIGHT!

PETER PREPARES FOR BED! BUT WHAT STRANGE REASON TURNS HIS ATTENTION TOWARDS THE FIREPLACE!
HMM... A PARTIALLY-BURNED ENVELOPE! AN ENGLISH STAMP AND POSTMARKED LONDON... ON THE VERY DAY I WROTE TO UNCLE HENDRIK! ARNOLD SAID MY LETTER HAD NEVER ARRIVED... BUT THIS MAKES ME WONDER!
LATER...
HE'S ASLEEP! IT WOULD BE EASY NOW...
NOT YET, ANNA ... I'VE BEEN THINKING! HOW DID PETER KNOW UNCLE WAS DEAD... PERHAPS HE KNOWS WHERE THOSE OLD DOCUMENTS ARE!
THAT'S RIDICULOUS... WE WOULDN'T HAVE KNOWN ABOUT THEM OURSELVES IF OLD HENDRIK HADN'T BABBLED IN HIS DELIRIUM! WE'VE GOT TO FINISH PETER NOW, ARNOLD!
ALL RIGHT... BUT LET'S WAIT A COUPLE OF HOURS AND SEE IF PETER DOES KNOW WHERE THOSE PAPERS ARE, HE MAY ATTEMPT TO GET THEM TONIGHT!
MEANWHILE, WITHIN... HOVERING OVER THE SLEEPING MAN... THE EERIE GHOST SMILED...
AND IN PETER'S SLEEP-SHROUDED MIND, AN ODD DREAM FORMED...
IT IS A BARGAIN, MYNHEER! HERE IS THE GOLD... AND THE LAND IS MINE!
YOU NOW OWN A SECTION OF NEW AMSTERDAM, PETER!
NOW TO PUT THESE DOCUMENTS IN A SAFE PLACE... AND I KNOW THE VERY SPOT! THE SECRET COMPARTMENT!

THE WEIRD DREAM PROCEEDED ...AND PETER SAW THE LITTLE MAN ENTER A HOUSE, APPROACH THE WALL NEAR AN ORNATE BUST! A TOUCH OF HIS FINGER ...AND A CONCEALED DRAWER SLID OPEN!
GOOD GOSH! GUESS IT WAS A DREAM...BUT IT WAS SO VIVID!
BUT I DON'T GET IT! HOW COME THAT LITTLE MAN IN MY DREAM WAS THE IMAGE OF THE GUY WHO SAVED MY LIFE?
THAT BUST IN THE DREAM, SEEMS TO ME I SAW SOMETHING LIKE THAT IN THE HALL DOWNSTAIRS!
I'M POWERLESS... BEFORE A STRANGE COMPULSION! I'VE GOT TO GO DOWNSTAIRS AND SEE!
THERE HE GOES! I TOLD YOU HE KNOWS SOMETHING!
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT...IT'S THE SAME ONE AS IN MY DREAM! LET'S SEE...THE LITTLE DUTCHMAN PRESSED THE MOULDING ABOUT HERE...
WOW! THERE IS A HIDDEN DRAWER...WITH SOMETHING INSIDE IT!

LET'S SEE... **WOW!** IT'S AN OLD DEED TO PROPERTY AT THE FOOT OF OLD NEW AMSTERDAM... PRESENT DAY MANHATTAN! WHY IT MUST BE WORTH **MILLIONS!**

YOU'RE RIGHT PETER—IT IS! AND HOW **LUCKY** THAT YOU SHOULD HAVE FOUND IT!

ARNOLD! BUT WHAT'S WITH THE GUN?

IT'S POINTED RIGHT WHERE I WANT IT! WE'VE BEEN SEARCHING THE WHOLE HOUSE FOR THOSE PAPERS! **HAND THEM OVER!**

WHY SHOULD I... THEY BELONG TO ME? DIDN'T YOU TELL ME UNCLE HENDRIK HAD LEFT EVERYTHING TO ME?

YES, BUT NOBODY KNOWS YOU'VE RETURNED... YOU'LL BE DECLARED LEGALLY DEAD WITHIN TWO MONTHS... AND I'LL OWN EVERYTHING! *THEY'LL NEVER FIND YOUR BODY, PETER!*

DO YOU THINK I'D LET YOU STAND BETWEEN ME AND A FORTUNE!

I'D BET THAT YOU KILLED UNCLE!

MEANWHILE A SPECTER LISTEN!

CALL IT HELPING ALONG THE PROCESS OF OLD AGE BY AN OVERDOSE OF MEDICINE!

PETER DIDN'T STOP TO SPECULATE ON THE SWORD DROPPED INTO HIS HAND, SEEMINGLY FROM NOWHERE. ARMED NOW, HE SWUNG INTO ACTION!

OKAY, BUDDY! HERE IT COMES!

ARGH!
AND AT THE CRUCIAL MOMENT...
YOU TWO ARE UNDER ARREST, WE'VE HEARD YOU CONFESS TO MURDER!
ALONE LATER...
BUT I..I CAN'T UNDERSTAND! HOW'D YOU HAPPEN TO GET HERE ..NOW!
A LITTLE OLD CAB-DRIVER CAME TO THE STATION AND TOLD US THERE WAS TROUBLE HERE! WE GOT HERE JUST IN TIME TO HEAR THAT PUNK BRAGGING ABOUT KILLING HIS UNCLE!
WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW! IT'S ALL OVER...I WONDER WHO THAT LITTLE MAN WAS!
AGAIN, AN ODD CUMPULSION... PULLING PETER'S EYES TOWARD THE OLD BUST! AND THERE HE SAW...
THAT FACE... THE SAME AS THE MAN WHO SAVED ME AT THE PIER ...ALSO THE TAXI DRIVER...AND THE OLD DUTCHMAN IN MY DREAM!
AND THAT'S WHO HE WAS.. MY GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDFATHER!
THE END
PETER VAN N
NEW AMSTERDAM
1640

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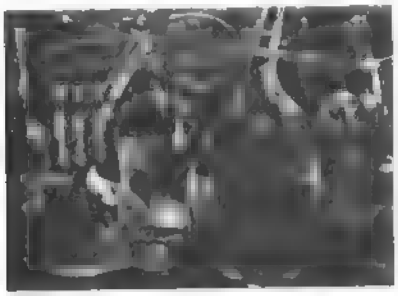

402 [illegible]

403 THE DEAR DEPARTED

404 FRIGHT NIGHT

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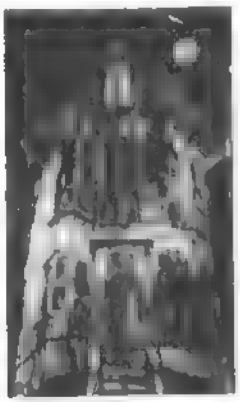

406 [illegible]

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SHOCK!

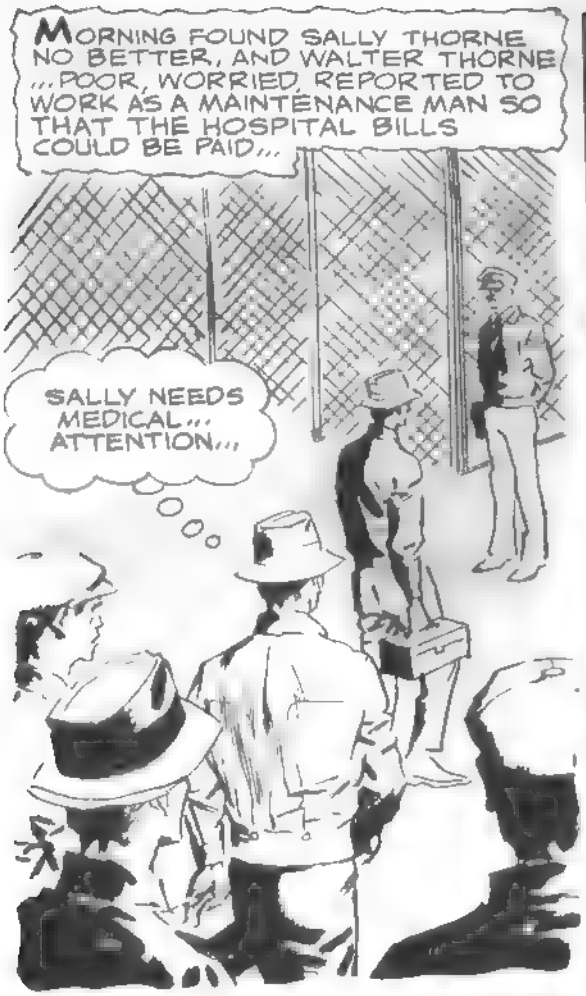
WALTER THORNE WAS A KIND GENTLE MAN WHO LOVED HIS WIFE DEARLY. SALLY MEANT EVERYTHING TO HIM, AND NOW SHE WAS IN PAIN!

DON'T LOOK LIKE THAT, WALTER DEAR, IT'S JUST TEMPORARY! IT'LL GO AWAY!

IT WON'T! LET ME CALL DR. ANDREWS! WHY MUST I STAND HERE AND WATCH YOU HELPLESSLY LIKE THIS?

DARLING...THE TESTS AREN'T ALWAYS RIGHT. DOCTOR ANDREWS WILL BE VISITING IN THE MORNING! I CAN WAIT!

IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO YOU SALLY, I'D...OH, DARLING...I LOVE YOU SO MUCH!


MORNING FOUND SALLY THORNE NO BETTER, AND WALTER THORNE ...POOR, WORRIED, REPORTED TO WORK AS A MAINTENANCE MAN SO THAT THE HOSPITAL BILLS COULD BE PAID...
SALLY NEEDS MEDICAL... ATTENTION...

OKAY, BUDDY! NEXT!
MAYBE...AN ADVANCE ON MY SALARY...NO?

OVERTIME?!! THAT'S OUT! WHO'LL STAY WITH SALLY?!!

WALTER GOT INTO HIS WORK CLOTHES. HE WORKED IN A DAZE. THE HOURS SLOWLY DRAGGED BY, TAUNTING HIM, WORRYING HIM WITH THOUGHTS OF HIS SICK WIFE...
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? WHAT..?!!

BUT SALLY'S GOT TO BE MADE WELL! I DON'T CARE WHAT IT COSTS! SHE NEEDS TREATMENTS! AND I'LL GET IT IF I HAVE TO BRING DOWN THE HOSPITAL ON IT'S EARS!

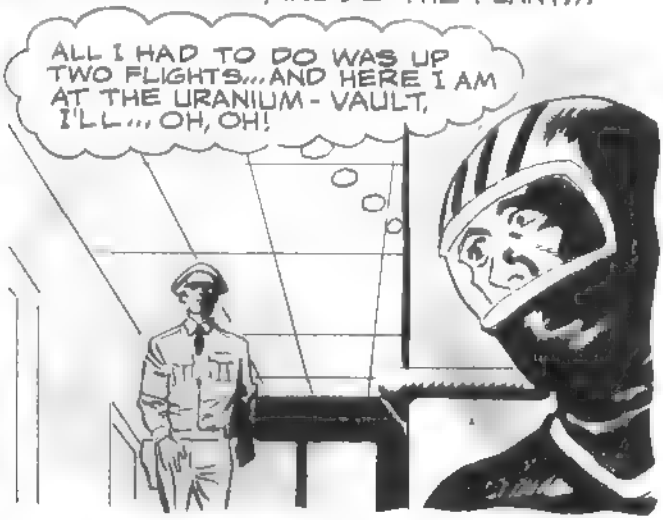
AFTER WORK HE RAN TO A PUBLIC CLINIC...
I'M SORRY SIR! YOU'LL HAVE TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT!
AN APPOINT...?!! I WANTA SEE A SPECIALIST...NOW!

THERE ARE RULES AND REGULATIONS! IF YOU'D..
HANG THE REGULATIONS EVERY SECOND COUNTS!
CLII

BUT WHAT COULD WALTER THORNE POSSIBLY DO?
I'VE TRIED EVERYTHING...AND EVERYTHING MEANS RED-TAPE AND MONEY NOT PEOPLES LIVES! WELL... I KNOW WHERE I CAN GET SOME MONEY! THEY TOLD ME TO CALL THEM IF I CHANGED MY MIND...

SO WALTER THORNE MADE A CALL TO THE MYSTERIOUS MEN...
ARE YOU INTERESTED? ARE YOU WILLING TO PAY ME... TEN THOUSAND? IF YOU ARE, I'LL MEET YOU AT EIGHT!
AGREED... AT WINISTON AND PARK STREETS!

MOMENTS LATER, WALTER THORNE WAS WRAPPING YARD UPON YARD OF SPECIALLY TREATED LEAD FOIL AROUND HIS BODY...
WHEN I WEAR THE ASBESTOS OVER THIS, IT'LL BE A PERFECT SHIELD! YOU'RE GOING TO GET WELL DARLING... I GIVE YOU MY WORD!


BY DAWN, WALTER WAS WELL-PREPARED ENTRY INTO THE PLANT FOR HIM WAS A SIMPLE MATTER WITH HIS BADGE. MINUTES LATER, INSIDE THE PLANT...
ALL I HAD TO DO WAS UP TWO FLIGHTS...AND HERE I AM AT THE URANIUM-VAULT. I'LL... OH, OH!

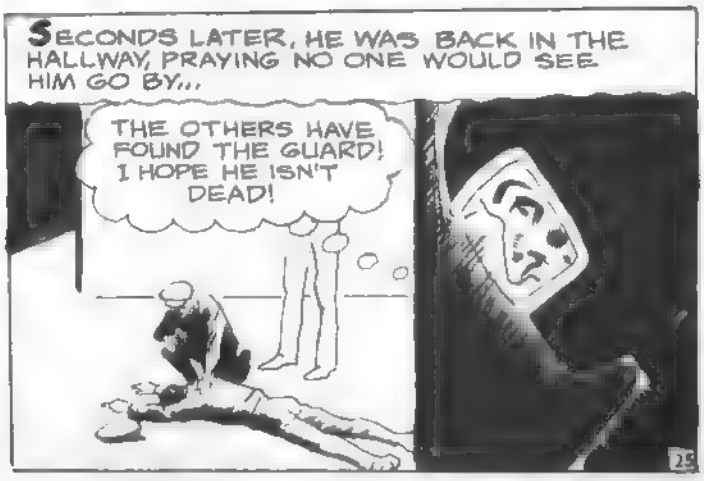
THE GUARD, PROBABLY! I CAN'T RUN NOW! I'LL BE SEEN! GOT TO WAIT FOR HIM TO REACH ME! GOT TO!

...ALMOST ON TOP OF ME! NOW!!

I'VE GOT HIM!

HIS HEART RACING FURIOUSLY, WALTER THORNE RAN TOWARDS THE VAULT, HE PUSHED THE BAR LEVER FREE AND PULLED OPEN THE HEAVY STEEL DOOR...
HERE I GO! INSIDE IS RADIOACTIVE DEATH! THREE MINUTES WILL BE SAFE ENOUGH!

THREE MINUTES OF DESPERATE LIVING MANEUVERING THE RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCE INTO A LEAD CONTAINER...
THERE! I'VE DONE IT!


SECONDS LATER, HE WAS BACK IN THE HALLWAY, PRAYING NO ONE WOULD SEE HIM GO BY...
THE OTHERS HAVE FOUND THE GUARD! I HOPE HE ISN'T DEAD!

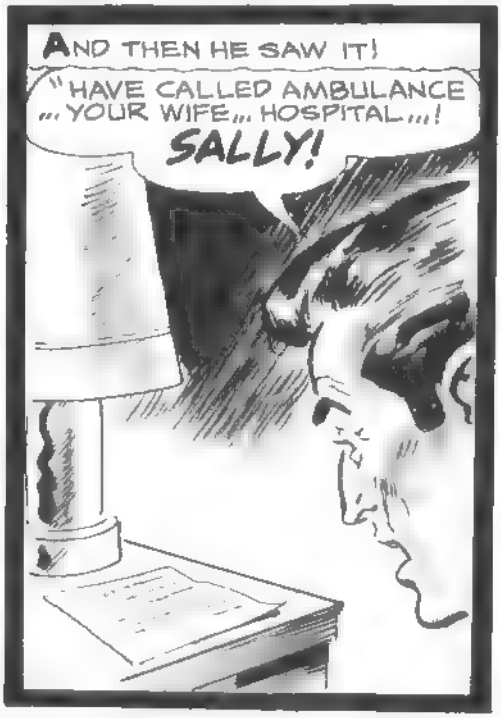
FINALLY HE CRAWLED TOWARDS THE FENCED...
BY THE TIME THEY FIND MY ASBESTOS SUIT, I'LL BE OUT OF HERE!

MINUTES AFTERWARDS HE SCALED A BRICK WALL THAT RAN PARALLEL WITH THE OUTER EXIT, JUST ONE MORE OBSTACLE!

THE GATE...
THORNE, WALTER #2728-547... HMMM... LET'S SEE NOW!
C'MON-C'MON! HURRY BLOCK-HEAD! IF THE LEAD FOIL CRACKS I'M DEAD!

FINALLY HE WAS THROUGH... THAT... NIGHT HE KEPT HIS RENDEZVOUS...
HERE IT IS!
YES... WE'LL GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU!

BUT THERE WEREN'T GOING TO BE ANYMORE FUTURE JOBS FOR WALTER THORNE. HE WAS GOING TO GIVE HIMSELF UP AFTER SALLY'S EXPENSES WERE PAID FOR... HE RUSHED TO TELL HER THE NEWS...
SALLY!


AND THEN HE SAW IT!
"HAVE CALLED AMBULANCE ... YOUR WIFE... HOSPITAL...!
SALLY!

TEN MINUTES GOT HIM TO THE HOSPITAL, AND THEN WALTER WAS RUNNING TOWARDS THE INFORMATION BOOTH.
WHERE IS SHE? I'M WALTER THORNE! TELL ME WHERE SHE IS!
UH.. YOUR WIFE'S IN SURGERY, SIR, BUT THOSE TWO GENTLEMEN WANT TOO SEE YOU!

THORNE...? COME ALONG ...QUIETLY PLEASE!
WHA..T? NO...NOT YET! GOT TO KNOW ABOUT SALLY!

BUT HE COULDN'T GIVE UP NOW! HE HAD TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO SALLY!
YOU'RE THE OPERATING ON MY WIFE! HERE'S MONEY! SAVE HER!
I'M AFRAID THAT'S... NO GOOD!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN IT'S NO GOOD? TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS IS PLENTY! I RISKED MY LIFE FOR IT!
WHY DIDN'T YOU WAIT YESTERDAY? I'D HAVE OPERATED FREE! ANYTHING.. TO SAVE YOUR WIFE! BUT YOU DIDN'T! WE COULDN'T SAVE HER! WE WERE TO USE RADIOACTIVE URANIUM ON HER...

..BUT SOMEONE BROKE INTO THE PLANT AND STOLE THE ELEMENT! SHE NEVER HAD A CHANCE! AND THE MAN WHO STOLE IT IS HER MURDERER!
NO! NO! NO!
The End

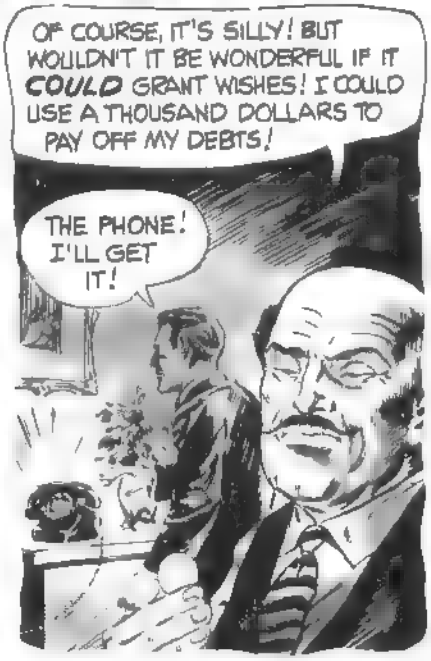
JOHN SUTTON HAD THREE WISHES--THREE WISHES THAT WERE WILLED TO HIM BY A STRANGE MAN WHO SEEMED FROM ANOTHER TIME...AND

HE ROSE FROM THE GRAVE

IT IS AN ORDINARY EVENING WHEN JOHN SUTTON SITS DOWN FOR HIS MEAL WITH HIS WIFE AND ONLY SON. AND THEN THEIR DOG BEGINS TO BARK IN A FRENZIED MANNER...

WITHOUT A WORD, THE STRANGE BEGGAR SLITHERED INTO THE HOUSE AND PARTOOK OF THE MEAL....

AND THEN, AFTER THE BEGGAR IS GONE ...

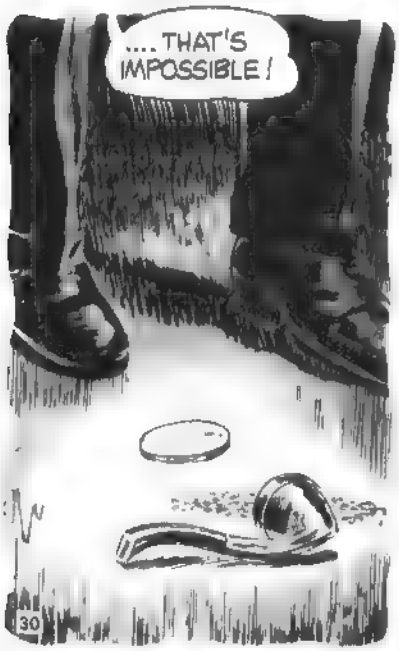


ALONE WITH HIS WIFE, JOHN STARES AT THE COIN...
WILL YOU STOP GAPING AT THAT SILLY COIN AND COME TO BED!
I WILL SOON...

WHY NOT MAKE A WISH? THERE'S NO HARM IN TRYING!

I WISH FOR A THOUSAND DOLLARS! GRANT ME THE WISH, COIN!
EVEN AS JOHN SUTTON MAKES THE WISH, HE KNEW SOMEHOW THAT THERE WAS EVIL IN THIS.

AIEE! IT... IT MOVED... AND BURNT MY PALM!


.... THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

IT--IT'S COOL NOW-- JUST AS IT WAS BEFORE! CURSE THAT BEGGAR!

THE FOLLOWING MORNING, JOHN TELLS HIS WIFE OF THE COIN'S STRANGE BEHAVIOR.
OF ALL THE SILLY THINGS! MAKING WISHES WITH SOME WORTHLESS COIN!....WHERE IS TOM?
I'LL CALL HIM!

HE'S NOT IN HIS ROOM AND HIS BED HASN'T BEEN SLEPT IN!
THAT FIRE---! HE WENT TO LAST NIGHT!

THAT MUST BE HIM!

I DISLIKE TROUBLING YOU AT THIS TIME, BUT OUR COMPANY HAS INSURED ALL THE VOLUNTEER FIREMEN FOR ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND WE LIKE TO MAKE PROMPT PAYMENT!
WHA--- WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

WHY---WHY I ASSUMED YOU KNEW THAT YOUR SON WAS BURNT TO DEATH IN THAT TERRIBLE FIRE LAST NIGHT!
...OHHH NO...

THAT WAS HOW THEY FIRST LEARNED OF IT!
MY BOY! ¡SOB¡ MY POOR BOY!
THEY WANT YOU DOWN AT THE MORGUE TO IDENTIFY HIS BODY!
I--I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

LATER AT THE MORGUE....
IT'S A FORMALITY WE MUST GO THROUGH BUT BRACE YOURSELF. HE'S PRETTY BADLY BURNED.
I--I FEEL AS IF I'D DONE THIS BEFORE SOMEWHERE...

GRAB HIM!

THE FOLLOWING DAY....
I HAVE MY THOUSAND DOLLARS---BUT AT WHAT A COST! MY BOY'S LIFE!
OH, TOM-- MY POOR TOM!

AND WHEN THEY RETURNED TO THEIR HOUSE...
CURSE THAT COIN! YOU HAD TO WISH FOR MONEY--MONEY THAT TOOK OUR SON IN PAYMENT!
MARTHA! PLEASE!

DON'T TOUCH ME! YOU HELPED KILL OUR BOY!
NO! NO!

FOR DAYS, THE MOTHER BROODS HER LOSS. THEN, ONE NIGHT....
JOHN! JOHN!! WAKE UP!
WHA--- WHAT---?

THE COIN! THE COIN!! IT STILL HAS TWO WISHES LEFT, HASN'T IT?
Y-YES!

WISH OUR BOY BACK TO LIFE! WISH IT-- WITH THE COIN!
NO! NO! I KNOW NOW, MARTHA! MONKEY'S PAW... NOT A COIN, IS THE EVIL! MARTHA... DON'T!

IF YOU WON'T, I WILL! WHERE IS THAT COIN?
MARTHA! FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE! WAIT--! LISTEN TO ME!

THEN A WILD STORM BREAKS OUT---BEFORE THEY CAN DROP OFF TO SLEEP AGAIN...

EVEN AS THE COIN BURNS INTO JOHN'S PALM, THE SCREAMING STOPS....BUT IT HAS BEEN TOO MUCH FOR HIS WIFE...

HE BURIES HIS WIFE NEXT TO HIS SON, AND THE ONLY OTHER MOURNER TO BE SEEN IS A STRANGE FIGURE IN AN ORIENTAL GARMENT...

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THE MUMMY

■ The mummy of Princess Amen-Ra first made the headlines in 1898 when it was offered for sale to a group of British archeologists in Luxor, Egypt, by some rather dubious characters who specialized in robbing ancient graves. The latter were not aware that the mummified corpse was a rare treasure, and parted with it for a ridiculously low figure.

The archeologists smuggled the tiny coffin into the hotel that night. Before morning one of them suffered a terrible nightmare which drove him out of his room: his companions never saw him again.

The following morning while about to transport the coffin—now wrapped in a bale of cloth—to Cairo, a strange Egyptian fired at them from a narrow noisome alley, seriously wounding another member of their group.

Enroute to England, the ship they were traveling on broke down several times. They finally succeeded in reaching the English Channel where the curse struck again, one of the senior members of the party disappearing over the side.

The remainder were either afflicted with a mysterious illness in reaching England, or suffered ill-fortune in some shape or another. In desperation they offered the mummy for sale. It was purchased by a wealthy curio collector in London. He had no sooner installed the mummy in his home than the place caught fire. He was later knocked down by a cab.

Rather than take any more risks he generously made a present of the mummy to the British Museum, who were so delighted with their new and exciting acquisition that they had a special glass case built for it and displayed prominently in the world-famous Egyptian Room.

The men whose duty it was to guard the exhibits at night soon began to avoid the Egyptian Room because of the wild wailing noises and knocking sounds that emanated from the glass case containing the ill-fated coffin. Some were injured by small exhibits which were thrown at their heads by an invisible force while other members of the staff fell ill, but it was not until several visitors swore they had been knocked off their feet by an unseen attacker that the authorities thought it would be best if the coffin was shifted somewhere down below out of sight.

One of the porters carrying the casket downstairs slipped and broke his leg in two places. Another succumbed to a fatal illness soon afterwards

The news of the curse prompted a leading London newspaper to send a member of its staff down to the museum to take a photograph of the mummified princess. He was more than somewhat taken aback on developing his shots to find an evil-looking face featured in every one of the prints.

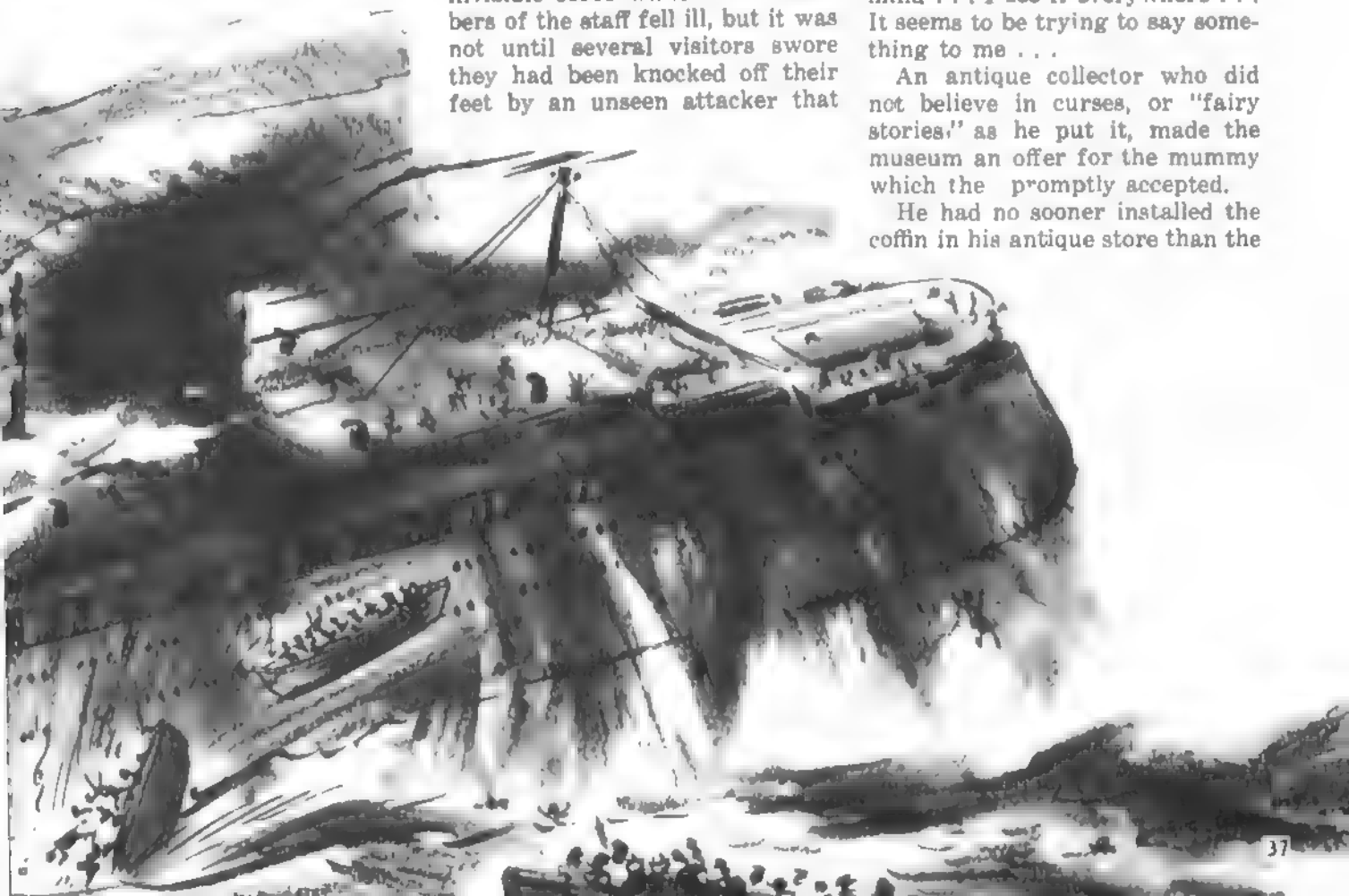
For some unknown reason he subsequently suffered fits of acute depression and made it known to his friends and colleagues that he no longer saw any point in living.

"It's just a waste of time . . ." he was apt to remark.

They tried to make him snap out of it, but one wet Friday night saw him taking his life. There was a note lying next to the body which read: "I just can't seem to get that horrible face out of my mind . . . I see it everywhere . . . It seems to be trying to say something to me . . .

An antique collector who did not believe in curses, or "fairy stories," as he put it, made the museum an offer for the mummy which the promptly accepted.

He had no sooner installed the coffin in his antique store than the



place caught fire. Fortunately the fire brigade arrived and was able to put out the conflagration before too much damage was done.

Madame Helena Blavatsky, the world-renowned clairvoyant, had occasion to make a purchase at the antique establishment soon afterwards. She was just arrived from Paris, and was completely unaware of the history of Princess Amen-Ra's mummy or the fact that it was somewhere on the premises.

"There is an evil presence here!" she suddenly informed the proprietor. "Great harm will befa l you unless you get rid of a certain ancient relic!"

"The place is filled with ancient relics,' he said trying to make light of the warning. "Couldn't you be more explicit?"

"All I can tell you is that it is very, very old . . . I have a feeling it is as old as the Pyramids!"

The antique dealer refused to heed the warning. Some little while later, while rearranging some of his precious wares, an entire stand of valuable pottery suddenly collapsed on his head, almost cracking his skull.

He finally got the message, and upon reading in the newspaper that a certain American showman was in town seeking novelties for his Circus and Exhibition he paid the latter a visit.

He spun the American a story to the effect that he was going out of business and was therefore obliged to part with his most precious possession—the mummy of the Egyptian Princess Amen-Ra!

On learning that the mummy was at least 3,500 years old, the American immediately asked the dealer to name his price.

"Send it down to Southhampton and see that it is placed aboard the *Titanic*, he instructed the dealer, the transaction having been completed.

"Yes sir, of course," promised the other, almost rubbing his hands together with glee.

"Make sure it gets down there before April 12th, as I don't want to sail without it," the showman added, writing out the necessary check.

The Princess was safely placed aboard the *Titanic*, much to its new owner's satisfaction.

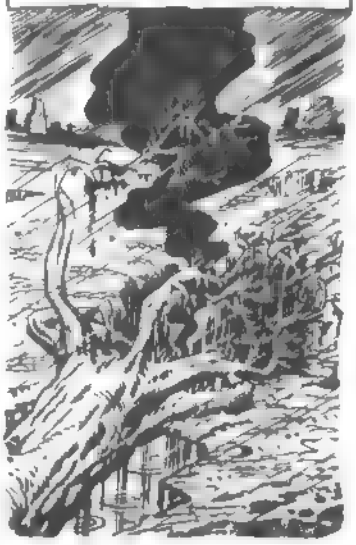
Neither of them was fated to reach the States. Both the mummy and the showman went down with the gigantic vessel when she struck the iceberg which was to make history at the time. ●

I AM FIFTY... I AM AN OLD MAN... I'M SENILE, TOTTERING, PALSIED! YOU ASK HOW THAT IS LIKELY AT MY AGE? THEN LISTEN TO THE STORY OF...

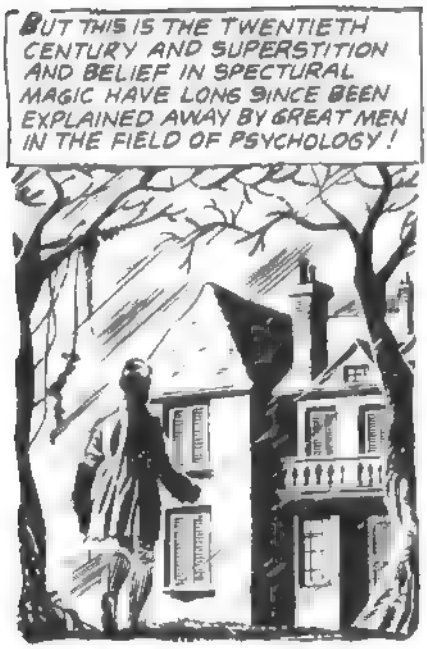
Satan's DEMON

IT HAD BEEN A MILD, PLEASANT WINTER UNTIL THE NIGHT OF THE 30TH OF DECEMBER! THEN, ALL THE HOARDED FURY OF NATURE WAS UNLEASHED AT ONCE... SHAKING THE QUIET, PEACEFUL VILLAGE OF INTERVALE TO ITS ROOTS! AND THE WILDEST TORMENT SEEMED TO BE LEVELLED UPON THE ANCIENT CEMETERY THAT HAD RESTED FOR THREE HUNDRED YEARS ON THE HILL SLOPE NOT FAR FROM OUR FAMILY HOUSE...

THERE WERE BLACK SOUNDS IN THE NIGHT, AND STRANGE SHAPES SEEMED TO FORM THAT WERE BLACKER THAN THE DARKNESS...



IT IS AN OLD NEW ENGLAND SUPERSTITION THAT ON SUCH A NIGHT, THE DEVIL'S WORK IS BEST PERFORMED...


BUT THIS IS THE TWENTIETH CENTURY AND SUPERSTITION AND BELIEF IN SPECTURAL MAGIC HAVE LONG SINCE BEEN EXPLAINED AWAY BY GREAT MEN IN THE FIELD OF PSYCHOLOGY!

THE KNOCK AT THE DOOR WAS JUST ABOUT AUDIBLE ABOVE THE STORM! GENEVIEVE WHO WAS JUST ABOUT TWENTY WITH SHARPER HEARING THAN MINE, INSISTED SOMEONE WAS AT THE DOOR...
MY DEAR MAN! COME IN!

BUT...BUT WHAT! I DON'T MEAN TO BE RUDE, BUT THOSE CLOTHES!
RIDICULOUS, AREN'T THEY? YOU SEE, A TREE WAS DOWN NEAR THE CEMETARY! AS I STOPPED, FOUR MEN SPRANG AT ME, TOOK MY MONEY, MY CAR...MY CLOTHES!

IT WAS UNUSUAL, BUT I BELIEVED THE MAN, AND SINCE HE WAS ABOUT MY SIZE, I PLACED MY WARDROBE AT HIS DISPOSAL!

I TRUST.. A BIT MORE PRESENTABLE, MY FRIENDS!

OH...H-HOW DO YOU DO!

THE STRANGER SAID THAT HIS NAME WAS ARTHUR WARREN! HE HAD BEEN ALL OVER THE WORLD, SO THAT TIME PASSED WITHOUT OUR REALIZING...
I'M AFRAID I HAVE BORED YOU!
ON THE CONTRARY! YOU MUST BE OUR GUEST...IF YOUR TIME PERMITS!
OH, NO!

YOU SEE, SOME FRIENDS OF MY DAUGHTER'S WILL BE IN FOR A QUIET NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY! BUT THEN YOU'LL PROBABLY WANT TO SEE THE POLICE ABOUT THE ROBBERY!
THAT CAN WAIT! I AM HONORED BY YOUR INVITATION!

WE ROSE AND GENEVIEVE DREW THE DRAPES ASIDE! "I LOVE THE SUN HERE EARLY IN THE MORNING," SHE SAID, THEN, "OH, IT HAS CLEARED! THE MOON IS UP!"...
YES...A WANING MOON...A DYING MOON!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

ARHUR WARREN'S WORDS IN THEMSELVES WERE NOT SO STARTLING, AS THE MANNER IN WHICH HE HAD SEEMED TO HISS THEM! BUT THE MOOD PASSED IN AN INSTANT AND WAS FORGOTTEN! THE NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY WAS A COMPLETE SUCCESS...
OUR GUEST WAS CHARMING...
I SAW IN MY DAUGHTER'S FACE A HAPPY LIGHT...
AND I NOTICED THE ENVIOUS GLANCES CAST IN WARREN'S DIRECTION BY THE OTHER GIRLS OF THE PARTY...

AS I PASSED GENEVIEVE'S ROOM THAT NIGHT SOME TIME LATER, I SAW THAT HER DOOR WAS OPEN, AND WHEN I BADE HER GOOD NIGHT, SHE DID NOT ANSWER... AND I THOUGHT...
GENEVIEVE IS IN LOVE WITH THAT YOUNG MAN...
I DID NOT SLEEP WELL, AS I SENSED SOMETHING SINISTER IN MY HOME THAT NIGHT...
THE NEXT MORNING, NEW YEAR'S DAY, OUR HOUSEKEEPER TOOK GENEVIEVE'S BREAKFAST TO HER ROOM! SHE RETURNED VERY MUCH WORRIED! I WENT TO MY DAUGHTER...
ALL NIGHT I DREAMED SUCH HORRIBLE DREAMS, AND NOW... I AM SO TIRED...
I'LL PHONE FOR DR. GREY!

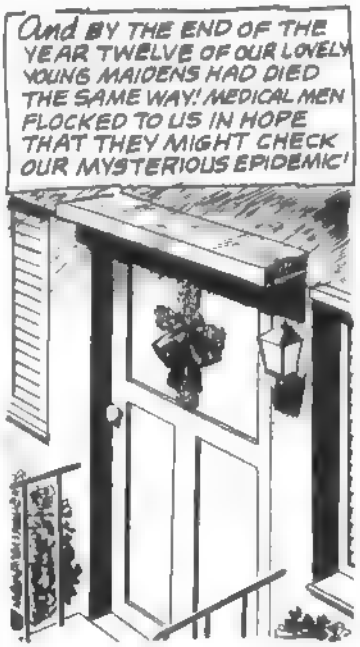
LATER THAT DAY..
WHAT IS IT, DOCTOR? WHAT IS WRONG WITH MY DAUGHTER?
I WISH I COULD TELL YOU! NOTHING THAT FITS COMPLETELY INTO ANY DIAGNOSIS! ONE THING I DO KNOW... SHE MUST HAVE A BLOOD TRANSFUSION AT ONCE!
FOR A FORTNIGHT, GENEVIEVE HOVERED BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH, AND ON THE NIGHT OF JANUARY 14TH, SHE PASSED AWAY...
MY BABY! DEAD! HER MOTHER DIED WHEN SHE WAS A CHILD! I HAVE LIVED FOR HER ALONE ALL THESE YEARS! NOW... I HAVE NOTHING TO LIVE FOR! NOTHING...
COURAGE, MY FRIEND... HAVE COURAGE!

THROUGHOUT MY DAUGHTER'S LAST ILLNESS, ARTHUR WARREN HAD BEEN A TOWER OF STRENGTH, BUT NOW THE FUNERAL WAS OVER AND...
I HAVE BROUGHT YOU ILL-FORTUNE, MY FRIEND! IT IS BEST I LEAVE!
PLEASE DO NOT THINK SO! YOU HAVE GIVEN ME COURAGE, AND I LEANED ON YOU! YOU HAVE BEEN MUCH COMFORT!

TIME WILL HEAL YOUR WOUNDS, MR. KIRKLAND, BUT WITH ME AROUND THEY WILL NOT HEAL SO FAST! MY PRESENCE WILL ONLY BRING YOU HARSH MEMORIES!

HE WAS STILL POPULAR WITH THE LADIES ABOUT TOWN...
WARREN LEFT MY HOME, BUT NOT INTERVALE! OCCASIONALLY I MET HIM ON THE STREET AND NOW AND THEN WORD OF HIM WOULD REACH ME...

THEN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FOLLOWING MONTH, YOUNG DIANA WELLS DIED OF THE SAME MALADY THAT HAD TAKEN MY GENEVIEVE...


And BY THE END OF THE YEAR TWELVE OF OUR LOVELY YOUNG MAIDENS HAD DIED THE SAME WAY! MEDICAL MEN FLOCKED TO US IN HOPE THAT THEY MIGHT CHECK OUR MYSTERIOUS EPIDEMIC!

DURING THE YEAR MY OWN HEALTH FAILED! THE FOLLOWING YEAR, WHILE I WAS AT HOME, INVALIDED, A KNOCK CAME AT THE DOOR...
I DO NOT RECEIVE VISITORS, SIR...
THIS IS IMPORTANT, MR. KIRKLAND! YOU MAY HELP ME TO CHECK THIS EPIDEMIC!

MY VISITOR, DR. PENROSE HALL BEGAN QUESTIONING ME...
BEFORE YOUR DAUGHTER'S DEATH, MR. KIRKLAND, DO YOU RECALL THE MEETING OF A STRANGER? UNDER... ER... PECULIAR CIRCUMSTANCES?
INDEED I DO! A YOUNG MAN... IN RIDICULOUS CLOTHING! I STILL HAVE HIS CLOTHES!

I LED THE WAY UPSTAIRS TO WARREN'S ROOM! THERE I OPENED THE CLOTHES CLOSET...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND, DOCTOR! THE SUIT IS GONE! ONLY THIS PILE OF DUST... AND THESE ANTIQUE BONE BUTTONS!
EXACTLY, MR. KIRKLAND! WE MUST GO AT ONCE TO THE HOME OF THE LATEST VICTIM OF THIS.. THIS MALADY!

I WENT WITH DR. HALL DIRECTLY TO THE HOME OF DONALD CRANE, ABOUT FIVE MILES AWAY! HIS DAUGHTER, ALICE, HAD BEEN ILL FOR TWO DAYS...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND, DR. HALL... YOU MEAN...
YOUR DAUGHTER IS IN GREAT DANGER, MR. CRANE! NOW, HERE IS WHAT WE MUST DO...

WE WERE LED AT ONCE TO ALICE'S BEDROOM! MY HEART WAS STABBED WITH PAIN SEEING THE POOR CHILD... THEN DR. HALL WAS SPEAKING...
IN THIS CLOSET, GENTLEMEN! REMEMBER... HOLD YOUR CRUCIFIXES... DO EXACTLY AS I HAVE INSTRUCTED WHEN I SIGNAL...

THE LIGHTS WERE EXTINGUISHED... JUST AFTER MIDNIGHT SOMETHING VILE AND UNHOLY SEEMED TO PERMEATE THE ATMOSPHERE...

THROUGH THE CRACK IN THE DOOR WE SAW SOMETHING TAKE SHAPE...
NOW! HURRY!!

WE ADVANCED, EACH ONE OF US HOLDING HIS CRUCIFIX HIGH! THE THING TURNED WITH THE MOST UNHOLY EXPRESSION I EVER SAW!

BUT SO EVIL WAS IT THAT THE SIGHT OF THE HOLY CRUCIFIXES MADE IT HELPLESS! DR. HALL DROVE THE STAKE THROUGH ITS HEART!
EVIL...EVIL..THING OF NIGHT AND DEVIL! DIE...DIE...CLEANSE THYSELF IN DEATH!
THE THING BEGAN TO MELT AND TURN INTO A SLIMY, ODORFUL MASS ON THE CARPET...
YOU WILL NOT FIND YOUR MR. WARREN AROUND ANYMORE!
MR. WARREN?
I AM A DOCTOR OF METAPHYSICS, AN OCCULTIST! WHEN I READ OF YOUR DISASTERS, I BEGAN TO QUIETLY INVESTIGATE CERTAIN ANCIENT TOMBS! I READ THERE THE CASE OF ARTHUR WARREN, EXECUTED AS A VAMPIRE IN THE YEAR 1651
FOR THE REST OF THE EXPLANATION, COME...
HALL LED US TO...
THE ONE PERFORMING THE EXECUTION, THE RECORDS STATE, WAS SEIZED WITH A STROKE AND DIED BEFORE THE INCANTATION COULD BE MADE! NO ONE ELSE KNEW IT!
CEMETARY
WITHOUT THE INCANTATION, WARREN REMAINED IN SUSPENDED DEATH, THE OAK SPROUTED AND GREW OVER HIS REMAINS! WHEN THE UPROOTED TREE REMOVED THE STAKE WARREN WAS A FREE VAMPIRE ONCE MORE, TAKING ANY SHAPE, LIVING ON THE BLOOD OF YOUNG MAIDENS...ONE BEFORE EACH NEW MOON...
And SO I LIVE, KNOWING I RECEIVED IT INTO MY HOME AND ON MY HANDS IS THE BLOOD OF THIRTEEN MAIDENS...FOR UNWITTINGLY I OPENED THE DOOR TO THE BLACK HEART!! MY LIFE IS SPENT! I WAIT IMPATIENTLY FOR THE GRAVE!
The End

THE BEAST

IT WAS A FATAL DAY FOR COUNT ALMO DUCLOS OF MONACO. THROWN OVER BY HIS FIANCÉE, YSOBEL BARSAC, COUNT DUCLOS SQUANDERED TEN MILLION FRANCS, HIS ENTIRE FORTUNE, GAMBLING. WITHOUT A SOU TO HIS NAME, HIS MIND IS A WHIRLPOOL OF BITTERNESS AND DESPAIR ...

SEÑOR, I WAS NOT ALWAYS A GARDENER! MANY YEARS AGO IN SPAIN, I HAD A VILLA FINER THAN THIS!
THIS MAY BE TRUE, MANUEL, BUT HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY HELP ME?

DO YOU KNOW THE OLD DUCHESS OF MALFIA? IT WAS SHE WHO BROKE THE BANK AT THE CASINO YEARS AGO WITH HER "SECRET OF THE NUMBERS!"
YES, I HAVE HEARD! WHAT IS THE "SECRET OF THE NUMBERS?"

I ONLY KNOW WHAT SHE TOLD ME. SHE WON AT EVERY TURN OF THE WHEEL. BUT SHE SAID HER SOUL WAS NOT HER OWN.
WHO CARES ABOUT THAT? JUST TELL ME WHERE I CAN FIND THE DUCHESS!

THE NEXT DAY....
BUT I MUST SEE THE DUCHESS! IT IS VERY IMPORTANT!
I'M SORRY, SIR, THE DUCHESS SEES NO ONE. SHE MADE IT A RULE FIVE YEARS AGO!

THAT MUST BE THE DUCHESS' WINDOW! NOTHING MUST STOP ME! I WILL CLIMB UP TO THE BALCONY!

UGH! WHAT AN OLD HAG. BUT IF SHE HAS THE SECRET I WILL GET IT FROM HER NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS!

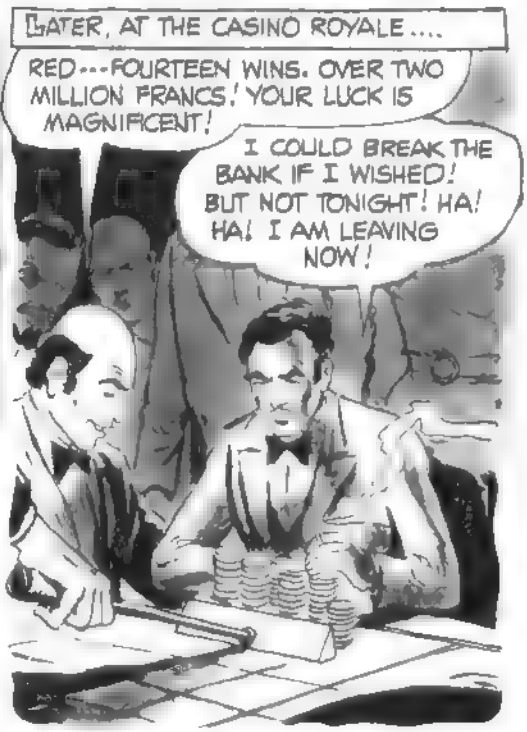
AIII! WHO ARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
SH-SH! I MEAN YOU NO HARM, DUCHESS MALFIA! GIVE ME WHAT I WANT AND I WILL LEAVE IMMEDIATELY!

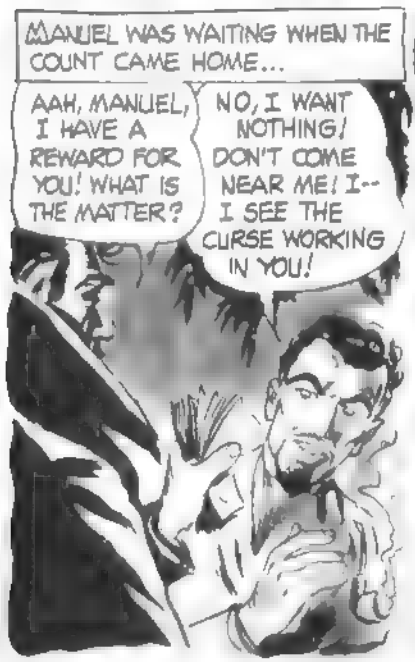
I WANT THE SECRET OF THE NUMBERS!
NO! NO! DON'T ASK FOR THAT! YOU WOULD LOSE YOUR SOUL! MY OWN LIFE IS A LIVING HELL!

I WILL NOT GIVE YOU THE SECRET! GO AWAY, YOU MADMAN!
DUCHESS, THERE IS A DEVIL IN ME OVER WHICH I HAVE NO CONTROL! THE SECRET OF THE NUMBERS OR YOU DIE!

PL-PLAY RED-FOURTEEN, NINE, ONE. BLACK-SIX TWO, ELEVEN IN THAT ORDER AND MAY YOUR SOUL BE ACCURSED FOREVER.... MY HEART....AAAAAAAR!

SHE IS DEAD! BUT I HAVE THE SECRET OF THE NUMBERS TO BREAK THE BANK AT THE CASINO ROYALE!


LATER, AT THE CASINO ROYALE....
RED---FOURTEEN WINS. OVER TWO MILLION FRANCS! YOUR LUCK IS MAGNIFICENT!
I COULD BREAK THE BANK IF I WISHED! BUT NOT TONIGHT! HA! HA! I AM LEAVING NOW!


MANUEL WAS WAITING WHEN THE COUNT CAME HOME...
AAH, MANUEL, I HAVE A REWARD FOR YOU! WHAT IS THE MATTER?
NO, I WANT NOTHING! DON'T COME NEAR ME! I-- I SEE THE CURSE WORKING IN YOU!

THE DUCHESS IS DEAD! YOU MUST HAVE KILLED HER TO GET THE SECRET! YOU ARE A MURDERER!
RRRROAR! YOU HAVE ENRAGED ME BEYOND CONTROL! ONLY YOUR DEATH SHALL SATISFY ME!

LET ME GO! HELP! OWWW!
THE FEVER BURNS IN ME AND WILL EXPIRE ONLY WHEN YOU ARE LIFELESS CLAY!

SUCH SCREAMS OF TERROR! LOOK! A BODY! SOMEONE HAS BEEN HURT!
THE FOOLS! THEY'LL NEVER SUSPECT THE COUNT ALMO DUCLOS! HIS LIPS ARE SEALED FOREVER!

ON THE PRIVACY OF HIS OWN APARTMENT...
AAHHEEE! MANUEL WAS RIGHT! THE EVIL CURSE IS UPON MY BODY!

THE COUNT FELL INTO A SENSELESS STUPOR FROM SHEER EXHAUSTION....
RED—FOURTEEN, NINE, ONE! BLACK—SIX, TWO.... AAAR!

WHEN DAY CAME....
ALL TRACES OF THE BEAST ARE GONE! WAS IT A NIGHTMARE? I AM RID OF THE CURSE!

AT THE CASINO THAT EVENING....
GOOD EVENING, ALMO. THE COUNT ALMO DUCLOS, MY HUSBAND MONSIEUR SARGONNE.
THE PLEASURE IS ALL MINE!

I HAVE WATCHED YOU PLAY, ALMO! STOP NOW! YOU HAVE WON A FABULOUS FORTUNE! DON'T RISK ANOTHER LOSS!
YSOBEL! HA, HA! WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE TO YOU NOW? LET ME ALONE, I AM GOING TO PLAY FOR THE BANK!

COME, HENRI, I CANNOT BEAR TO WATCH THIS FOOL PLUNGE INTO DISASTER AGAIN!
GO, GO, MADAME WINE MERCHANT, YOU MEAN YOU CANNOT BEAR TO WATCH ME WIN!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! THE CASINO IS CLOSED! COUNT DUCLOS HAS BROKEN THE BANK!
VIVE DUCLOS! BRAVO! HOORAY FOR COUNT DUCLOS!

AS COUNT DUCLOS LEAVES...
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME? MY HANDS, MY FACE...I'M BECOMING A BEAST AGAIN!

DODGING THROUGH DARK STREETS, SUDDENLY, DUCLOS WAS STOPPED BY THE SOUND OF LAUGHTER....
THIS MIGHT HAVE BEEN MY HOME, MY FRIENDS! I AM AN ACCURSED OUT-CAST BECAUSE OF YSOBEL! HER LAUGHTER HAUNTS ME!

AAAIII! HELP, HENRI! WHAT A HORRIBLE LOOKING BEAST!
RRROAAR! WHEN I AM FINISHED WITH YOU, YOUR BEAUTY WILL BE DESTROYED! OUT OF MY WAY, FOOL!

YSOBEL, SAVE YOURSELF! GET HELP, QUICKLY! AAARRR!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO INTER-FERE! YOUR LIFE IS NOTH-ING TO ME! IT'S THAT BEAUTIFUL SHE-DEVIL I WANT TO DESTROY!

MON DIEU, THE WOLF BEAST HAS KILLED MY HUSBAND! DON'T LET HIM ESCAPE!
AFTER HIM! LOOK AT THAT LEAP! HE'S GETTING AWAY!

CONTINUED ON BACK COVER

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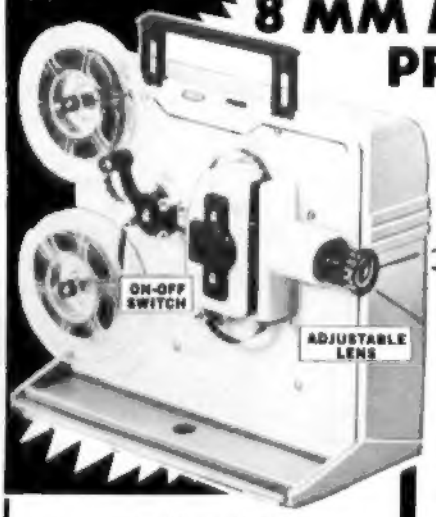

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HA, HA! YSOBEL WILL NEED BETTER GUARDS TO TRAP ME!
SACRE! HE'S GOING RIGHT THROUGH THE WINDOW! WHAT A DEVILISH FIEND!

YOU HAVE HIS SCARF! THOSE INITIALS...A.D....AND THAT CREST! IT'S COUNT ALMO DUCLOS! HE WAS THE BEAST!
CALL THE POLICE! WE MUST TRAP HIM! HE'S EITHER AT HIS HOME OR AT THE CASINO!

A HALF HOUR LATER....
WE SEARCHED HIS HOME BUT HE IS NOT THERE! WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND?
THE COUNT IS IN THE CASINO, COLLECTING HIS WINNINGS!

WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME? WHAT HAVE I DONE?
COUNT DUCLOS, I ARREST YOU FOR THE MURDER OF HENRI SARGONNE! WE KNOW YOU ARE THE WEREWOLF!

YES, I AM THE MAD BEAST! I GAVE MY SOUL FOR THE SECRET TO WIN A FORTUNE. CURSE YOU ALL, YOU'LL NEVER TAKE ME ALIVE!
LOOK, HIS FEATURES ARE CHANGING TO A WEREWOLF!

HE IS TRYING TO GET AWAY! OPEN FIRE!
AAA!!! OOOUWW!

HE'S BECOME THE COUNT AGAIN---IN DEATH! WHAT INCREDIBLE LUCK HE HAD! WHY ONLY LAST WEEK HE BROKE THE BANK!
I DON'T THINK IT WAS LUCK! HE SAID HE GAVE HIS SOUL TO WIN A FORTUNE! BUT NOW HE HAS LOST EVERYTHING!
The End